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SEC

SERVICE DATE - OCTOBER 16, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Ex Parte No. 573

RAIL SERVICE IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

Decided: October 15, 1997

A public hearing regarding the status of railroad freight service in the western United States has been scheduled for Monday, October 27, 1997, at 10:00 a.m., in the Surface Transportation Board Hearing Room (Suite 760) at 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Board will provide an overflow room (the Brick Room) on the first floor of the building with a closed-circuit telecast of the entire hearing.

Given the large number of persons likely to attend the hearing on October 27, the Board requests that all persons attending the hearing use the building's entrance located on 20th Street between K and L Streets. For security reasons, upon entering the 20th Street entrance, all persons should be prepared to produce photo identification (such as a driver's license), pass through a metal detector, and submit to an inspection of all briefcases, handbags and any other bags. The hearing is expected to last all day, and the hearing room and the overflow room will be secured during the lunch recess.

To effectively conduct this hearing, the Board must limit access to the hearing room and the overflow room. Only participants will be permitted into the hearing room, and Board staff will issue them badges. Upon clearing security at the 20th Street entrance, the participants will be escorted to the seventh floor hearing room. Only holders of participant or media badges will be admitted to the seventh floor hearing room. The holders of those badges have been selected and notified by the Board.

The public will be admitted to the overflow room, which seats 65. The visitor badges for the overflow room will be issued by Board staff at the 20th Street entrance on a first come, first served basis. Only holders of the visitors badges will be admitted to the first floor overflow room. "Line sitters" are permitted, but will not be issued badges.

Board staff will begin admitting people to the hearing room and overflow room at 9:00 a.m. All participants are requested to arrive early enough to be admitted to the hearing room by 9:45 a.m. Badge holders leaving the premises, and not intending to return, should relinquish their badge to Board staff. The Board's Hearing Room does comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, and persons needing such accommodation should contact the Office of the Secretary by noon, October 24, 1997.

Any prepared statements submitted by the speakers at the hearing will be available at the Board's contractor, D.C. News and Data, Inc., located in Room 220 in the Board's building, as soon after the conclusion of the hearing as possible. D.C. News can be reached at 202/289-4357. The statements will also be available for viewing and self copying in the Board's Microfilm Unit, Room 755, as soon as the statements are processed by Board staff. The hearing will be video-taped, and the Board will make arrangements to have the tapes duplicated, at cost, if there is a public demand for copies of the tapes.

Comments or questions concerning this decision should be directed to Bettye Uzzle, the Information Officer for the Office of the Secretary at 202/565-1650.

It is ordered:

1. Admittance to the Surface Transportation Board hearing on October 27, 1997 will be upon the conditions set forth above.

2. This decision is effective on the date of service.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams, Secretary.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary